

# Clinical Laboratory Update

April 2020

[www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab](http://www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab)

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## From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

### **MHDL now offering SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody testing**

Effective May 1, the Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL) is able to perform SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibody testing. Testing is recommended at least 10 days post-symptom onset or after exposure to individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. Patients tested prior to this time may be negative for SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies. Therefore, molecular testing is recommended for diagnosis of COVID-19 in symptomatic patients. Please see [MHDL SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing announcement](#) for complete details.

### **MHDL accepting COVID-19 nasal swabs**

Our lab recently validated and is now accepting nasal swab specimens for COVID-19 NAAT testing. Please note, a nasopharyngeal swab is still the *preferred* upper respiratory specimen for COVID-19 NAAT testing performed at the MHDL.

### **NAAT and serology result reporting**

State statute requires the reporting of suspect cases of COVID-19 as well as both positive and negative NAAT results to state or local public health by entering of this information into WEDSS. The DHS Health Alert # 7 informs labs that for COVID-19 antibody testing, *only* positive results need to be entered into WEDSS.

### **MHDL COVID-19 guidance updates**

Our [COVID-19 testing instructions](#) on collecting and submitting specimens to MHDL continues to be updated regularly. Current information is posted on our website: [www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab](http://www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab).

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of April is included as a supplement to this report.

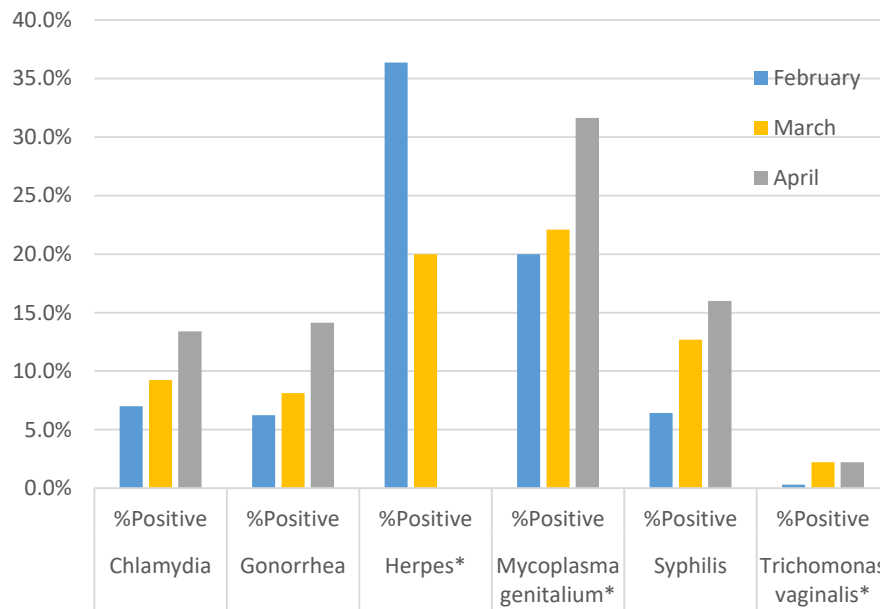
### Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WI DHS #7 HAN](#)

[CDC Serology Testing](#)

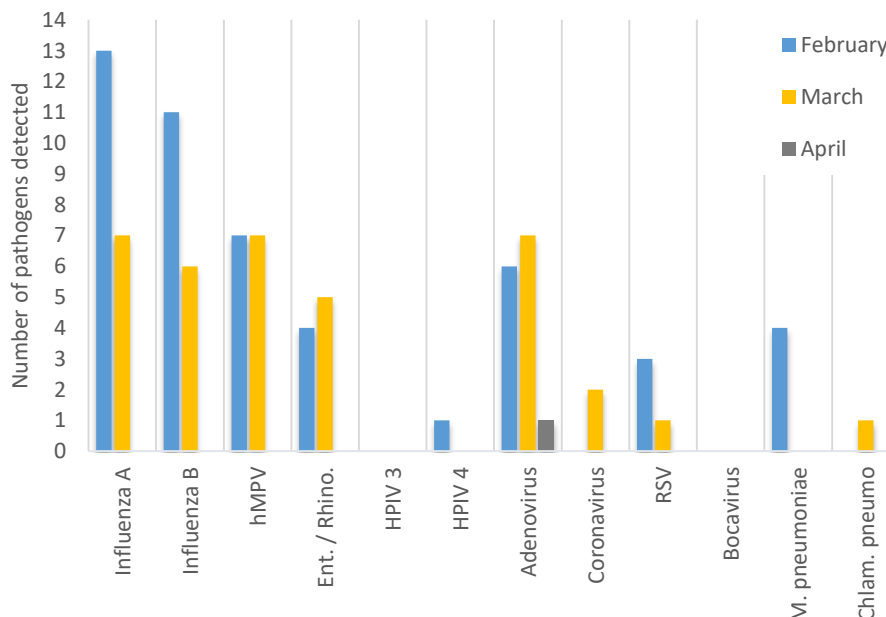
## Sexually Transmitted Infections



**Figure 1:** Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

\*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

## Respiratory Infections

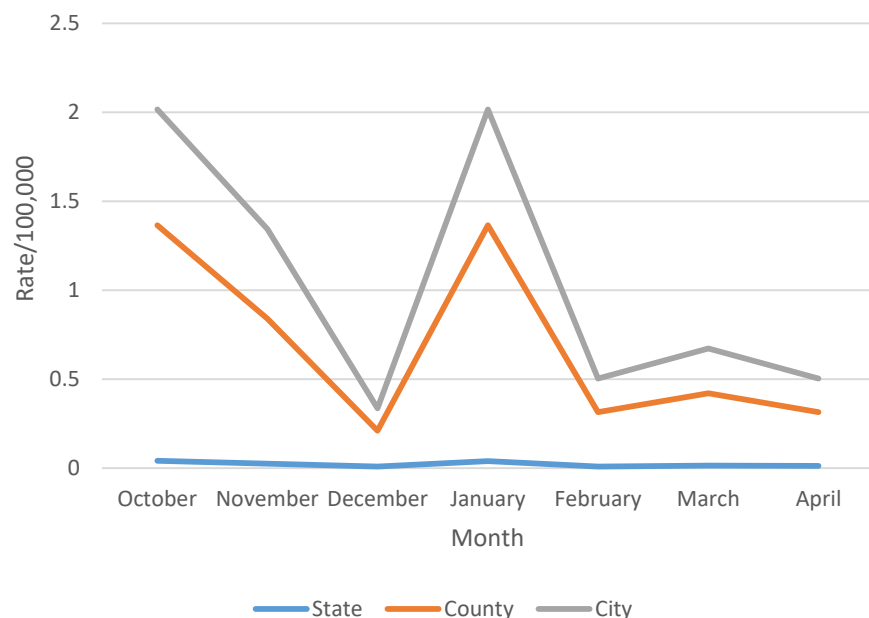


**Figure 2:** Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



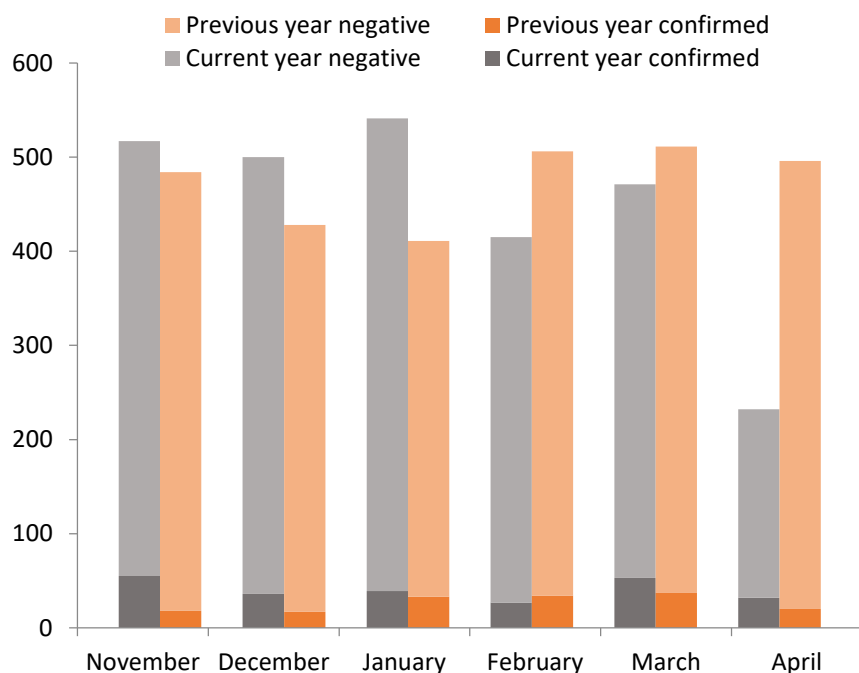
## New HIV Infections



**Figure 3:** Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and City of Milwaukee, using state- and county-level data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For more statewide HIV data, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>.

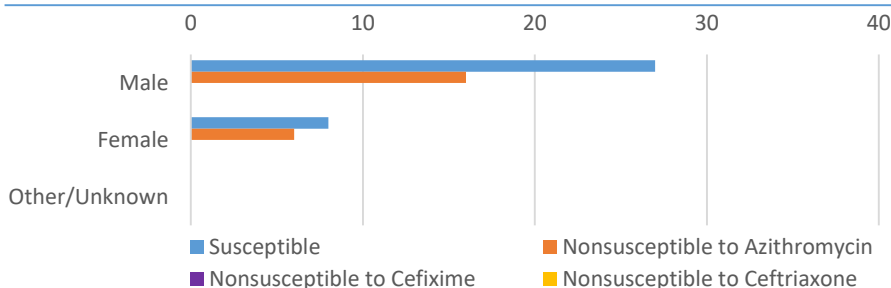
## Syphilis Surveillance



**Figure 4:** Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

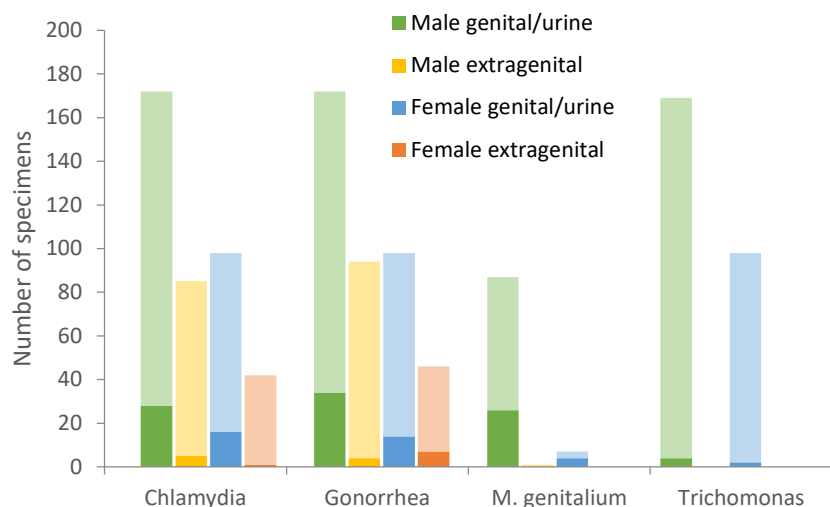
Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

## Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing



**Figure 5:** Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In April 2020, 22 of 57 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

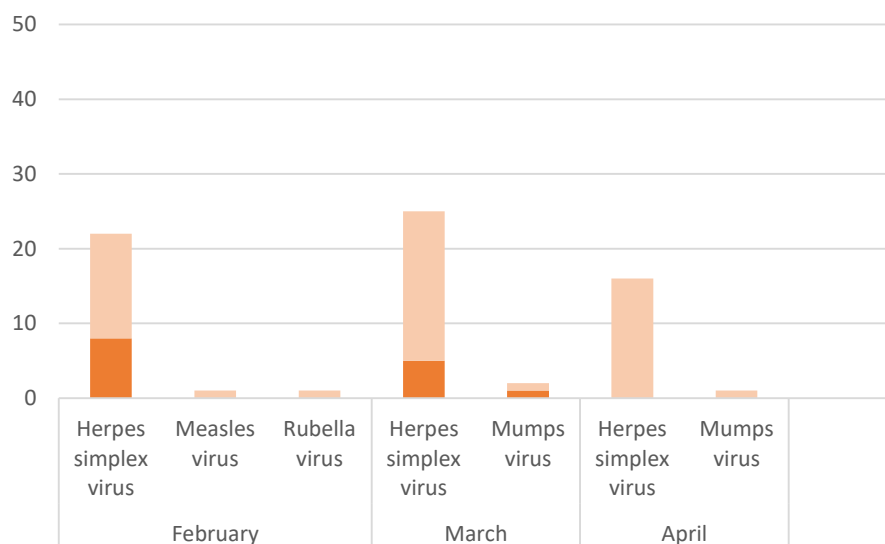
## Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source



**Figure 6:** Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In March 2020, 12.8% of male and 12.1% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 14.3% of male and 14.6% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 29.5% of male and 4 of the 7 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 2.4% of male specimens and 2.0% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

*Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.*

## Viral Surveillance

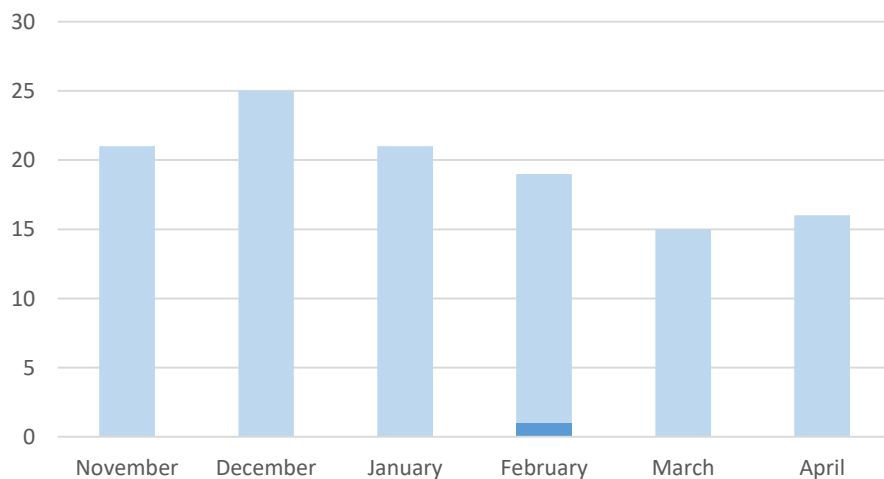


**Figure 7:** Specimens tested using molecular methods.

*Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.*

*Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.*

## Legionella Testing



**Figure 8:** Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

\*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

*Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.*